Appln. No. 09/911,522
Amendment dated December 15, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1   1. (Currently Amended) A method <u>implemented on an information</u>
2   <u>handling system</u> for the automatic harvesting and qualification of dynamic
3   database content comprising:
4   obtaining an initial categorization structure for organizing a plurality
5   of subject areas of information;
6   obtaining a plurality of parametric information lists for optimizing
7   operation to a user's requirements;
8   obtaining a candidate database listing having a plurality of <u>candidate</u>
9   databases each having a collection of content;
10   acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases from said
11 candidate database listing by matching ~~each~~ one of a candidate databases to
12 said plurality of subject areas <u>of information</u>;
13   obtaining a query from ~~the~~ <u>a</u> user, said query being associated with a
14 subject area;
15   submitting said query to said plurality of qualified databases;
16   acquiring a collection of responsive content from said plurality of
17 qualified databases;
18   indexing said responsive <u>content to form</u> an index of facilitating
19 searching said collection of responsive content;
20   publishing a summary of said collection of responsive content for
21 review by the user.

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1   2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of

2   obtaining a plurality of parametric information lists further comprises:

3   obtaining an exclusion list providing a plurality of terms and sources

4   to inhibit associations for said step of acquiring a collection of responsive

5   content;

6   obtaining an inclusion list providing a plurality of terms and sources

7   restricting associations for said step of acquiring a collection of responsive

8   content;

9   obtaining a stop list providing a plurality of terms to be excluded for

10   said step of indexing said responsive content.

1   3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of

2   acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:

3   capturing an initial page from each one of said plurality of candidate

4   databases;

5   evaluating said initial page for relevancy to said each one of said

6   subject areas of information;

7   selecting databases according to relevance to said subject areas of

8   information;

.9   associating said selected databases with said subject areas of

10   information.

1   4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2   obtaining a database relevancy parameter for restricting the

3   qualification of databases below a minimum threshold value;

4   comparing the relevance of each initial page to said relevancy

5   parameter;

6   removing each candidate database with a relevancy below said

7   minimum threshold value from qualification.

1   5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of

2 acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:

3   submitting a query to each of said selected databases;

4   capturing a plurality of pieces of responsive content provided by each

5 of said selected databases;

6   evaluating each of said plurality of pieces of responsive content for

7 relevancy to said query;

8   assigning a numerical score to each one of said plurality of pieces of

9 responsive content, said numerical score representing a degree of relevance

10 to said query;

11   developing an aggregate score for each one of said selected databases;

12   qualifying a portion of said selected databases based upon said

13 aggregate score ~~to be polled for content~~.

1   6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of

2 capturing a plurality of pieces of responsive content further comprises:

3   obtaining a content parameter limiting the number of pieces of content

4 to be captured from each of said selected databases;

5   obtaining an initial weighting of each of said pieces of responsive

6 content from said selected database;

7   selecting a quantity of pieces of responsive content limited by said

8 content parameter such that pieces of responsive content with a relatively

9 greater initial weighting are selected before pieces of responsive content

10 with a relatively lesser initial weighting.

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1   7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of

2   acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:

3   capturing an initial page from each of said plurality of candidate

4   databases;

5   evaluating said initial page for relevancy to said each of said subject

6   areas;

7   obtaining a database relevancy parameter for restricting the

8   qualification of databases below a minimum threshold value;

9   comparing the relevance of each initial page to said relevancy

10   parameter;

11   removing each candidate database with a relevancy below said

12   minimum threshold value from qualification;

13   selecting databases according to relevance to said subject areas;

14   submitting a query to said selected databases;

15   capturing a plurality of pieces of responsive content provided by said

16   selected databases;

17   obtaining a content parameter limiting the number of pieces of content

18   to be captured from said selected databases;

19   obtaining an initial weighting of each of said pieces of responsive

20   content from said database;

21   selecting a quantity of pieces of responsive content limited by said

22   content parameter such that pieces of responsive content with a relatively

23   greater initial weighting are selected before pieces of responsive content

24   with a relatively lesser initial weighting;

25   evaluating each of said plurality of pieces of responsive content for

26   relevancy to said query;

27   assigning a numerical score to each of said plurality of pieces of

28   responsive content, said numerical score representing a degree of relevance

29   to said query;

30   developing an aggregate score for each of said selected databases;

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31   qualifying apportion of said selected databases based upon said
32   aggregate score to be poled for content;
33   associating said qualified databases with said subject areas.

1   8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2   acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3   analyzing an initial page from each one of said plurality of qualified
4   databases for formatting
5   determining an input location <u>on said initial page</u> for passing queries
6   ~~by~~ <u>from</u> said initial page to each one of said plurality of databases;
7   determining result locations for capturing search results returned
8   from each one of said plurality of databases;
9   recording said input location and said results locations for use in
10   formatting queries for each one of said databases.

1   9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of acquiring a
2   collection of responsive content further comprises:
3   comparing each piece of responsive content to each one of said subject
4   areas in said initial categorization structure;
5   matching each piece of responsive content to subject areas based on
6   relevance of the responsive content to the subject areas;
7   filtering matches to optimize said categorization structure.

1   10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of filtering
2   matches further comprises:
3   removing duplicate pieces of responsive content;
4   obtaining a population parameter for limiting a number of pieces of
5   responsive content which may be matched to any one subject area;
6   obtaining an occurrence parameter for limiting a number of subject
7   areas to which any one piece of responsive content may be matched;
8   restricting matches for each one of said subject areas according to said
9   occurrence parameter and said population parameter.

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1   11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of filtering

2   matches further compris:s:

3   obtaining an exclu.ion list to inhibit matches based on predetermined

4   words and sources;

5   obtaining an inclu:ion list to restrict matches based on predetermined

6   words and sources;

7   matching each pie(e of responsive content with subject areas

8   according to said exclus on list and said inclusion list.

1   12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

2   creating a categori:ation file for recording matches between each

3   piece of responsive cont:nt and each subject area;

4   saving said catego ization file to a storage medium for use in

5   searching said collectioı of responsive content.

1   13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of indexing

2   said responsive content urther comprises:

3   obtaining a stop li t providing a list of words not to be indexed;

4   parsing each piece of responsive content into constituent words;

5   eliminating words)f said responsive content occurring on said stop

6   lists;

7   recording a locatic n of every occurrence of constituent words in said

8   collection of responsive content.

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1   14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of publishing
2   a summary further comprises:
3   determining if a summary is provided for each piece of said responsive
4   content;
5   examining each piece of said responsive content for keywords
6   associated with each subject area;
7   developing a keyword summary score for each piece of responsive
8   content;
9   examining each piece of said responsive content for relevant extracts
10   forming an extract summary;
11   developing an extract score for each piece of responsive content;
12   comparing said keyword summary score to said extract score for a
13   summary composite score;
14   selecting said keyword summary if a predetermined summary value is
15   exceeded by said summary composite score;
16   selecting said extract summary if a predetermined summary value if
17   not exceeded by said summary composite score.

1   15. (Currently Amended) A system for the automatic harvesting and
2   qualification of dynamic database content comprising:
3   a computer system having a communication means for communicating
4   with at least one other computer including a database to facilitate ~~the~~ a two-
5   way flow of information between said computer system and the at least one
6   other computer;
7   said computer system having a storage means for retention and recall
8   of data communicated by or to the at least one other computer;
9   said computer system having a processing means for executing
10   multiple software modules and performing comparisons between a user
11   supplied query and a plurality of documents found in at least one other
12   computer;

13   an index for storing a plurality of pre-approved internet sites to be

14   included in a series of queries;

15   a configuration module adapted for translating a generic query into

16   site-specific dialects such that a single user defined query may be directed

17   to multiple sites automatically;

18   a selection module adapted for characterizing said plurality of

19   documents returned by the database of the at least one other computer and

20   associated with said user defined query;

21   a results index to allow for rapid recovery of specific portions of any

22   one of said plurality of documents characterized by said selection module;

23   and

24   a generator module for automatically generating at least one results

25   page for the user conveying information associated with any one of said

26   plurality of documents associated with said query.

1   16. (Currently Amended) A method implemented on an information

2   handling system for the automatic harvesting and qualification of dynamic

3   database content comprising:

4   obtaining an initial categorization structure for organizing a plurality

5   of subject areas of information;

6   obtaining a plurality of parametric information lists for optimizing

7   operation to a user's requirements;

8   obtaining a candidate database listing having a plurality of databases

9   each having a collection of content, each one of said plurality of databases

10   providing a dynamic response based upon a specific query;

11   acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases from said

12   candidate database listing by matching each one of a candidate databases to

13   said plurality of subject areas;

14   obtaining a query from the user, said query being associated with a

15   subject area;

16   submitting said query to said plurality of qualified databases;

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17   acquiring a collect.on of responsive content from said plurality of
18   qualified databases;
19   indexing said resp··nsive content to form an index of facilitating
20   searching said collectioɪ of responsive content;
21   publishing a summɪry of said collection of responsive content for
22   review by the user.

1   17. (Previously Prᴇsented) The method of claim 16, wherein said step
2   of acquiring a plurality ᴏf qualified databases further comprises:
3   analyzing an initiaɪ page from each one of said plurality of qualified
4   databases for formatting
5   determining an inpɪt location on said initial page for passing queries
6   by said initial page to eᴇch one of said plurality of databases;
7   analyzing a results page from each one of said plurality of qualified
8   databases for formatting
9   determining resultɪ locations on said results page for capturing search
10   results returned from eaᴄh one of said plurality of databases;
11   recording said inpɪt location and said results locations for use in
12   formatting queries for eᴇch one of said databases.

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1   18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step
2   of acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3   analyzing an initial page from each one of said plurality of qualified
4   databases for formatting;
5   determining an input location on said initial page for passing queries
6   by said initial page to each one of said plurality of databases;
7   analyzing a results page from each one of said plurality of qualified
8   databases for formatting;
9   determining results locations on said results page for capturing search
10 results returned from each one of said plurality of databases;
11   recording said input location and said results locations for use in
12 formatting queries for each one of said databases.

1   19 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2   acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases further comprises
3   acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases each generating
4   dynamic responses based upon a user query.

1   20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising
2   the step of generating at least one summary comprising at least one extract
3   of relevant content taken directly from an associated at least one item in
4   said collection of responsive content from said plurality of qualified
5   databases.

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